January 5-7, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

The Detroit News: Michigan Supreme Court Justice Hathaway to retire amid scandal

"A lawyer for Michigan Supreme Court Justice Hathaway has said the justice will retire Jan. 21. Attorney Steve Fishman told The News that Hathaway submitted her retirement paperwork to the state on Dec. 20."

Full story

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Hathaway to retire after judicial agency calls for her suspension

Full story

MLive.com: Michigan Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway retires in wake of legal battle

Full story

Michigan Lawyers Weekly: BREAKING NEWS: Hathaway quits amid JTC charges

Full story

WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: Lawyer says Michigan Supreme Court Justice Hathaway retiring

Full story

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Lawyer says Michigan Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway will retire Jan. 21

Full story

WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: MI Supreme Court Justice Hathaway to retire after fraud accusation, commission's move to suspend her

Full story

The Detroit News: State moves to end rights of mom accused of fatally stabbing daughter

"A court referee on Monday began the process of terminating the parental rights of a woman accused of killing her 8-year-old daughter. Sameria Greene has been charged with felony murder after allegedly stabbing her daughter, Tameria Greene, in their apartment on Dec. 30."

Full story

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Detroit mom accused in stabbing death of daughter, 8, back in court today

Full story

The Detroit News: No added prison time given man who killed unarmed intruder in '09; Prosecutors plan to appeal judge's order of added probation

"[Wayne County Circuit Judge Michael Hathaway] Friday refused to extend the prison sentence of a Detroit man twice tried for chasing down and fatally shooting an unarmed man who broke into his home in 2009.... Wayne County prosecutors contend Hathaway again was too lenient and plan a second appeal. The Friday resentencing hearing was ordered by the state Court of Appeals after a challenge from prosecutors."

Full story

Also see:

MLive.com: Detroit Vigilante killer Tigh Croff won't serve prison time for manslaughter conviction

Full story

Detroit Free Press: Dave Bing, City Council to hammer out new round of cuts for Detroit employees

"Detroit Mayor Dave Bing and the City Council will begin negotiations [this] week on another round of cuts for city workers, including reductions in health care benefits and pay for employees of the legislative and executive branches and a pension freeze for many city workers.... The city also would cut funding to the 36th District Court by the equivalent of up to 20% of pay for non-judicial workers, but under state law, the court would decide how to absorb that cut."

Full story

Note: The article also ran in the Lansing State Journal.

The Detroit News: Driver to plead in marijuana DUI case; Drug test tossed after court questioned laboratory procedures

"An attorney who recently had Michigan State Police Crime Lab findings dismissed in a 'drugged driving' case said he expects his client to plead to a single misdemeanor charge today. At issue were findings by state police crime labs that routinely analyze blood and urine samples of motorists and others for drugs and alcohol in tests of Michigan's driving-under-the-influence laws."

Full story

Ann Arbor.com: Former juvenile court on Platt Road likely to stay in Washtenaw County hands in 2013

"Washtenaw County's former juvenile detention center and juvenile court at 2270 Platt Road in Ann Arbor likely will stay in the county's possession in 2013, according to commissioners. The center has been vacant since May 2011, when juvenile court staff moved out of the facility and into the third floor of the county courthouse in downtown Ann Arbor."

Full story

Daily Press & Argus: Judge declines to recuse herself

"The defense attorney for a man charged in a double murder asked the judge Friday to recuse herself after learning she is friends with potential witnesses in the case. Livingston County District Judge Theresa Brennan, who was assigned the Circuit Court case due to another judge's retirement, denied the request to step down, saying her friendships with the two police officers will not affect her rulings."

Full story

Daily Press & Argus: Sound ruling on Michigan insurance information

The editorial states "A ruling late last year by an Ingham County judge could mean good news for everyone who buys auto insurance. It's definitely good news for everyone who thinks the public's business should be as transparent as possible."

Full story

Also see:

Daily Press & Argus: Judge: Car insurance records are public

Flint Journal: New complaint in Flint water rate lawsuit claims service charge violates state law

"... [Scott] Kincaid's water rate lawsuit was originally filed in May in the Michigan Court of Appeals because it alleged the rate increases violated the Michigan Constitution.... The appeals court dismissed a portion of the lawsuit that claimed the rate increases violated the Michigan Constitution, and the Michigan Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal. The remaining counts were refiled in Genesee County Circuit Court. A hearing on the case is scheduled for Jan. 14 before Genesee Circuit Court Judge Richard Yuille." Full story

Ingham County Legal News: Robert P. Young, Jr., elected to second term

"The justices of the Michigan Supreme Court have unanimously elected Robert P. Young, Jr. to a second term as chief justice. The justices choose a chief justice at the beginning of every odd-numbered year. Young pledged to continue court reforms aimed at improving public service and transparency."

Note: The article also ran in the Jackson County Legal News and the Washtenaw County Legal News.

Also see:

Robert P. Young, Jr., elected to second term as chief justice

Press release

Lansing State Journal: Okemos schools can't be sued in 2008 drowning

"The Michigan Court of Appeals has ruled Okemos Public Schools cannot be sued for the 2008 drowning of a day camper with special needs, although a settlement is expected in the case. The parents of Sean-Michael Glarner, 22, of Perry, sued the district in 2010 after their son drowned at the Okemos Special Needs Day Camp. Glarner had a seizure while swimming at the camp."

Full story

** The article is available by subscription only.

Lansing State Journal: 'Art of Recovery' added to Eaton County program

"A nationally recognized jurist and a first in the nation program to turn lives around has added art as a new tool to help addicts change. And a new gallery in the courthouse has some of the program participants' selections on display."

Full story

** The article is available by subscription only.

The Macomb Daily: Lake St. Clair boat-barge crash garners \$8 million judgments

"The estates of three people who died in a horrific 2008 boat-barge crash and two other occupants gained \$8.1 million in judgments against the barge owner but will not see the money for at least a year or possibly ever."

Full story

Note: The article also ran in the Oakland Press.

The Oakland Press Blog: Michigan Medical Marijuana Act Does Not Provide Immunity for Collectives

"Just prior to the holidays, the Michigan Supreme Court deepened its medical marijuana jurisprudence by deciding another key case applying the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act. The case, People v Bylsma, arose out of Kent County and is distinctive because it is the first case under the Act that involves a collective grow operation."

Full story